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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06818 310736Z

21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W
---------- 070230
R 301515Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5122
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, YO, CB, XC
SUBJECT: PRINCE SIHANOUK VISITS YUGOSLAVIA;
YUGOSLAV-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS

REF : A. BELGRADE 3221, B. PARIS 32900

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF PRINCE SIHANOUK AND HIS PEKING ENTOURAGE TO YUGOSLAVIA DECEMBER 16-19 WAS BILLED BY YUGOSLAVS AS "UNOFFICIAL AND FRIENDLY". MUCH OF VISIT, WHICH OFFICIAL HERE DESCRIBED AS PART OF WORLD TOUR PRELUDE TO SIHANOUK'S RETURN TO CAMBODIA IN LATE DECEMBER, WAS TAKEN UP WITH WINING AND DINING. LACK OF COMMUNIQUE UNDER-SCORED UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF VISIT. GENERAL IMPRESSION HERE IS THE SIHANOUK MAY BE GATHERING TESTIMONIALS OF SUPPORT FROM HIS OLD FRIENDS TO BOLSTER HIS POSITION BEFORE RETURNING TO PHNOM PENH. BUT VISIT OCCURRED AT IMPORTANT TIME IN
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 06818 310736Z

YUGOSLAV-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS WHEN YUGOSLAVIA IS TAKING

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STEPS TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS EMBASSY IN PHOM PENH.
END SUMMARY.

2. SIHANOUK AND PARTY ARRIVED IN YUGOSLAVIA DECEMBER 16 AMID FANFARE TRADITIONALLY RESERVED FOR CHIEF OF STATE. VISIT TOOK PLACE MAINLY AT TITO'S VILLA ON ADRIATIC ISLE OF BRIONI, WHERE SIHANOUK MET WITH PRESIDENT TITO, VICE PRESIDENT BAKARIC, PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC, CROATIAN PRESIDENT JAKOV BLAZEVIC AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOJSOV. JUST BEFORE LEAVING YUGOSLAVIA FOR SYRIA DECEMBER 19 HE TOURED THE NEARBY PULA SHIPYARDS. AT THE TALKS WITH SIHANOUK WERE CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK, WHO VISITED YUGOSLAVIA LAST JUNE (REF A) AND NATIONAL UNITY FRONT POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER KHIET SHON, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING AS PHNOM PENH'S CHAPERONE FOR SIHANOUK.

3. NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, BUT YUGOSLAVS PUBLISHED SHORT UNILATERAL REPORT ON "ACCOMPLISHMENTS" OF VISIT. IT DESCRIBED TALKS AS "SINCER AND FRIENDLY," AND DIFFERED IN NO SUBSTANTIVE FASHION FROM RATHER RITUALISTIC TOASTS EXCHANGED AT TITO AND BLAZEVIC DINNERS, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED RENEWED DESIRES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION, SIHANOUK THANKED YUGOSLAVIA FOR ITS HELP DURING "NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE", AND "PEOPLES OF CAMBODIA" WERE CONGRATULATED ON THEIR FINAL VICTORY.

4. IN BRIEFING ON VISIT AND CURRENT STATE OF YUGOSLAV-CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS, FSFA SE ASIA DESK OFFICER, MIHAJLO HRONJAK, WHO WAS PRESENT AT SIHANOUK-TITO TALKS, ACKNOWLEDGED TO EMBOFF THAT VISIT WAS LARGELY SOCIAL. SIHANOUK ARRIVED WITH WIFE, NUMEROUS CHILDREN AND IN-LAWS. ONE OF SIHANOUK'S SONS, OORODOM CHAKRAPONG, WHO IS CURRENTLY STUDYING SERBO-CROATIAN IN BELGRADE (REPORTEDLY IN PREPARATION FOR PILOT TRAINING WITH THE JNA), ALSO WENT TO BRIONI.

5. HRONJAK SAID SIHANOUK'S VISIT HERE WAS PART OF A WORLD TOUR. HE WAS UNSURE OF SIHANOUK'S EXACT ITINERARY,
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BUT WAS FAIRLY SURE SIHANOUK HAD STOPPED IN TANZANIA, ALGERIA AND ALBANIA, AND WOULD STOP IN TWO MORE PLACES FOLLOWING SYRIA, NEXT AFTER YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID SIHANOUK PLANNED TO END UP HIS TOUR IN PHNOM PENH, AFTER AN INTERMEDIATE STOP IN PEKING AT THE END OF DECEMBER. HRONJAK SEEMED CERTAIN THAT SIHANOUK WAS GOING BACK TO PHNOM PENH TO A SECURE POSITION: "IN NEARLY EAVERY BOURGEOIS OR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION KINGS HAVE FALLEN,

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BUT SIHANOUK WILL NOT FALL BECAUSE HE HAS DEDICATED
HIMSELF TO THE INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY ALONE, AND NOT
TO PERSONAL POWERM"

6. HRONJAK DESCRIBED PRESENT SITUATION IN
CAMBODIA AS NORMAL, AT LEAST IN THE COMBODIAN CONTEXT."
EVERYONE WAS SAID TO BE HARD AT WORK TO PROVIDE FOR
THE COUNTRY'S GREATEST NEED--A STEADY FOOD SUPPLY.
THE CITIES WERE STILL SOMEWHAT DESERTED, BUT THE SHORTAGES
AND DEPRIVATIONS OF A FEW MONTHS AGO WERE NOT AS SEVERE
NOW. CAMBODIA, HRONJAK SAID, WAS LED BY YOUNG
INTELLECTUAL IDEALISTS WHO, UNLIKE PRAGMATIC AMERICANS,
DEVELOPED A THEORY OF SOCIETY FIRST AND THEN MOLDED
REALITY TO FIT THEIR IDEALS. THEY WERE PURE REVOLUTION-
AIRES, RENEWING LENIN'S REVOLUTION "A LA CAMBODIENNE".

7. HRONJAK CHARACTERIZED YUGOSLAV-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS
AS EXCELLENT. YUGOSLAVIA HAD BEEN ONE OF ONLY SEVEN
COUNTRIES TO GIVE THE KHMER COMMUNISTS UNQUALIFIED
SUPPORT IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST LON NOL, AND IN
RETURN THE KC HAD INVITED THESE COUNTRIES FIRST TO
SET UP MISSIONS IN PHNOM PENH (THE OTHER SIX COUNTRIES
ARE ALBANIA, NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM, NORTH KOREA,
CUBA AND THE PRC). DUSAN GRUBOR, YUGOSLAVIA'S NUMBER
TWO IN PEKING, HAD RECENTLY VISITED PHNOM PENH TO IRON
OUT FINAL DETAILS AND TO FIND OUT WHAT SUPPLIES
YUGOSLAVIA'S AMBASSADOR WOULD NEED TO AKE WITH HIM ON
HIS RETURN TO CAMBODIA, WHICH IS EXPECTED IN EARLY
1976. HRONJAK ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE U.S. AND CAMBODIA WOULD SOON BE NORMALIZED.

8. COMMENT: SIHANOUK APPEARED TO HAVE BOTH PERSONAL
AND POLITICALMOTIVES IN VISITING YUGOSLAVIA. THIS WAS
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PAGE 04 BELGRA 06818 310736Z

HIS SIXTH VISIT HERE, AND IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT OVER
THE YEARS HE HAS DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL RAPPORT
WITH TITO TO WHOM SIHANOUK WOULD LOOK FOR POLITICAL
SUPPORT AS HE CONTEMPLATES UNCERTAINTIES IN RETURN TO
PHNOM PENH. AND AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY TITO GAVE SIHANOUK
A BOOST AT A POSSIBLY OPPORTUNE MOMENT, WHEN YUGOSLAVIA
IS ON THE VERGE OF REOPENING ITS EMBASSY IN PHOM PENH.
SILBERMAN

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